



City of Seattle

Mike McGinn, Mayor

Seattle Human Rights Commission

November 9, 2010

Seattle City Council
600 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

RE: Enhanced Winter Shelter Behind the Red Doors

Dear Seattle City Council Members:

The Seattle Human Rights Commission recognizes the City's efforts in ending homelessness and supports the Mayor's and City Council's budget recommendations in funding winter shelter.

On Thursday, November 4, 2010 the Commission voted unanimously to support two recommendations presented to City Council from the Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness:

- Increased funding for enhanced winter shelter behind the Red Doors by \$75,000, which will ensure extended services of 6 months rather than 4 months for the 2010 winter season; and
- Making winter shelters available at an earlier time than the proposed 9:00 p.m. time frame.

The need for shelters has increased in the last year and more individuals are finding themselves on the streets. We are forecasting this year's winter season to be long and severe. The City of Seattle plays a critical role in providing for its homeless residents by adjusting its services and being proactive to ensure safe winter shelter for the homeless community. The need for enhanced winter shelter hours and accommodations is a matter of human decency and human rights for homeless individuals.

We hope that the Council will approve these recommendations. Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

Warmest regards,

Roslyn Solomon, Chair
Seattle Human Rights Commission

cc: Julie Nelson, Director, Office for Civil Rights
Jacque Larrainzar, Policy and Outreach Manager, Office for Civil Rights